

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A marked-up version of the claims that will be pending following entry of the present amendments showing the amendments made herein follows. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by strikethrough and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Please cancel Claims 1-17 and 20-36, without prejudice.

18. (Original) A method of inhibiting nitric oxide production in a cell susceptible to producing nitric oxide, which comprises contacting the cell with an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one agent exhibiting mammalian  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin,  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin-like, or serine protease inhibitor activity.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 in which the cell comprises at least one of an in vitro mammalian cell culture, an ex vivo mammalian tissue culture, or a mammalian organ.